



## **H.R. 477 - Stroke Treatment and Ongoing Prevention Act**

### **Floor Situation**

H.R. 477 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. The bill was introduced by Representative Lois Capps (D-CA) on January 16, 2007, and has not been considered by any committee in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The bill is expected to be considered on the floor on March 27, 2007.

*\*Note: During the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, Rep. Capps introduced similar legislation, H.R. 3658, that passed the House of Representatives by voice vote on June 14, 2006. The bill was received by the Senate but no action was taken.*

### **Summary**

H.R. 477 amends the Public Health Service Act by directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out an education and information campaign to promote stroke prevention and increase the number of stroke patients who seek immediate treatment. In providing this program, the Secretary may make public service announcements regarding strokes, and may provide preventive and treatment education of strokes.

A stroke is defined as “a ‘brain attack’ in which the blood flow to the brain is interrupted or in which a blood vessel or aneurysm in the brain breaks or ruptures.”

The bill also creates the Paul Coverdell National Acute Stroke Registry and Clearinghouse database. This database will collect specific data points and develop appropriate benchmarks for analyzing care of acute stroke patients. It will also collect, compile, and disseminate information on the achievements of State and local agencies and private entities in developing and implementing emergency medical systems and hospital-based quality care intervention.

H.R. 477 authorizes \$5 million for each fiscal year 2008 through 2012 for the database and information campaign.

The bill permits the Secretary to award grants to public and nonprofit entities involved in the treatment of strokes. The Secretary may give preference to qualified entities that will train health care professionals that serve areas with a significant incidence of stroke or traumatic injuries.

H.R. 477 authorizes \$4 million for each fiscal year 2008 through 2012 for the grants.

The bill establishes a 5-year pilot program to improve stroke patient outcomes by coordinating health care delivery through telehealth networks. The program is authorized over fiscal years 2008 through 2012 and permits the Secretary to make grants to States, and to consortia of public and private entities located in any State that is not a grantee pursuant to the bill.

The Secretary may provide up to 7 grants, with each one not lasting more than 3 years and none to run past 2012.

The grant may be used for the purposes of:

- Identifying entities with expertise in the delivery of high-quality stroke prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation;
- Working with those entities to establish or improve telehealth networks to provide stroke treatment assistance and resources to health care professionals, hospitals, and other individuals and entities that serve stroke patients;
- Informing emergency medical systems of the location of entities identified under subparagraph (A) to facilitate the appropriate transport of individuals with stroke symptoms;
- Establishing networks to coordinate collaborative activities for stroke prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation;
- Improving access to high-quality stroke care, especially for populations with a shortage of stroke care specialists and populations with a high incidence of stroke; and,
- Conducting ongoing performance and quality evaluations to identify collaborative activities that improve clinical outcomes for stroke patients.

H.R. 477 authorizes \$10 million for fiscal year 2008, \$13 million for fiscal year 2009, \$15 million for fiscal year 2010, \$8 million for fiscal year 2011, and \$4 million for fiscal year 2012.

## **Background**

In the United States, strokes are the third leading cause of death among the population. Although the symptoms of a stroke are easily identifiable, not all persons having a stroke seek immediate

medical attention. Advances in medical technology, coupled with timely treatment of a stroke, are improving the likelihood of a patient to survive and recover from a stroke.

According to the American Heart Association (AHA), approximately 700,000 Americans suffer from a stroke each year, with more than 150,000 die annually. The AHA estimates that someone dies of a stroke every 3 minutes.

**Cost**

As for Monday, March 26, 2007, CBO has not scored this legislation.

**Staff Contact**

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